

2013

Illegal Dumping / Damaging Forest Roads Hurts Everyone. 2013

Maine Forest Service

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

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*Illegal dumping /
damaging forest roads
hurts everyone*

For more information, please visit
www.maineforestservice.gov or call the numbers
below:

MAINE FOREST SERVICE

FOREST PROTECTION

Southern Region Dispatch, Augusta

207-624-3700

Central Region Dispatch, Old Town

207-827-1800

Northern Region Dispatch, Ashland

207-435-7963

Wildfire Control

Natural Resource Law Enforcement

Incident Management

Disaster Response

1-800-750-9777

Toll free: 1-800-750-9777

Facebook: "Maine Forest Rangers"

Maine's Forest Rangers are honored to serve the
citizens, visitors of the State of Maine and the
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation
and Forestry.



MAINE FOREST SERVICE

FOREST PROTECTION

www.maineforestservice.gov

Mission Statement

The mission of Maine's Forest Rangers is to protect Maine's homes and forest resources from wildfire, respond to disasters and emergencies and to enhance the safe, sound, and responsible management of the forest for this and future generations.

Illegal dumping

Maine's Forest Rangers investigate illegal dumping and if there is sufficient evidence, can help prosecute violators. If you suspect someone has illegally deposited trash, please write down the license plate, provide a description of the vehicle (as well as the occupants) and call the Maine Forest Service.

Since 2011, the penalties for littering have increased significantly. Not only have the fines increased, but a person convicted of title 17 S 2263 is now required to complete 100 hours of public service relating to the removal of litter.

Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day



Since the fall of 2011, Maine's Forest Rangers have organized the Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day. Each year, Forest Rangers and volunteers use this opportunity to show their appreciation to landowners who allow recreational access to their property by cleaning up over 100 sites throughout Maine. This collaborative effort brings tons of illegally discarded items (including hundreds of tires) to dozens of transfer stations statewide. If you would like to report an illegal dump site or volunteer to help clean one up, please contact the Maine Forest Service.

Damaging Forest Roads



Unfortunately, damage to forest roads still is prevalent across Maine on both state and privately owned property. Most of the damage occurs during the months of April and May when those roads are soft from the spring thaw.

As landowners can attest, the effects caused by these activities can quickly result in thousands of dollars in damage to their roads. It can also lead to erosion and sedimentation that can harm fish habitat.

To correct the damage caused by people "mudding" on private roads, landowners often have to pay contractors to bring in specialized equipment, like road graders, which can cost up to \$200 per hour.

Recently, rangers have had several successful prosecutions of the statute related to the damage of forest resources (including roads). Under this statute (Title 17, section 3853-D), a person who operates a motor vehicle on farmland or forest land and damages or destroys crops, forest products, personal property or roads on farmland or forest land, commits a Class E crime. If convicted, a person can receive a fine of up to \$500, up to 364 days in jail and can be ordered to pay restitution for the costs of repairing damaged roads or cropland.

Those interested in "mudding" with vehicles will need to obtain written permission from the landowner or do it on their own land, in areas that don't drain into streams or lakes.

Maine's landowners have a great tradition of granting public access to their properties for recreational use. Maine forest rangers are committed to helping to preserve this unique tradition.

Please contact the Maine Forest Service if you have unauthorized "mudding" in your area. Rangers investigate all complaints from landowners and can also actively patrol areas which are susceptible to this type of damage.